THE COMIC READER (Published by Jerry G. Bails) No. 12, Aug. 20,1962
For the next issue of this newsletter send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Mike Tuohey, 16857 Sunderland, Detroit 19, Michigan.

The December JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA introduces an unusual villain in "Cavern of Deadly Spheres!" -- a villain who pretends to battle the JLA with one type of power in order to conceal his true power.

Following the run of Hawkman in BRAVE AND BOLD will be something new in comic magazines, both from a literary and artistic angle. Entitled STRANGE SPORT STORIES and edited by Julie Schwartz, it will combine sports stories with science-fiction, and will use the entire universe as a background. And thanks to a new technique in comic book illustrations, the reader can flip the pages of this magazine and see a baseball game, or a football game played before his very eyes. The book is entirely illustrated by Carmine Infantino, and written by Gardner Fox.

The next SHOWCASE will begin a trial run of a long-time minor feature that has been absent from the scene for the last several months-- TOMMY TOMORROW. Do I remember Tommy's origin correctly--he, like Buck Rogers, was a twentieth-century man who "slept" into the future?

Snapper Carr, the popular honorary member of the JLA makes a guest appearance in "Machine That Made Miracles," in the Dec.-Jan. issue of THE ATOM. Rounding out the issue is: "The Case of the Innocent Thief."

Atomic Knights fans will be glad to know that another double-lengther will appear in the December STRANGE ADVENTURES. Titled "The King of New Orleans," the yarn has a strong element of New Orleans Jazz woven into it -- possibly the first time this has been done in a comic story.

Another surprise-filled, 3-part Superman classic is in the works, wherein the city of Kandor is enlarged. Jimmy Olsen plays a big part in this one.

A future issue of LOIS LANE features a "Lady and the Tiger" type story. The cover depics Superman in a wheelchair remarking that he has lost his super powers. Two girls, presumably Lois and Lana (although their faces are covered), are conversing. One says she doesn't care what happens to Superman; now that he has lost his powers, he is no longer appealing. The other girl says she still cares. Of course, the question is: Who are the girls?

An upcoming FLASH story introduces the father of Iris West. Mr. West comes right out and asks Barry Allen what his intentions are toward Iris. Barry has to think fast to get out of this one.

A future Superman story scheduled for ACTION COMICS has the Man of Tomorrow (Do they still call him that or is tomorrow here now?) going off his rocker. The cover pictures him

breaking krytonite chains that bind him.

I can just see it on a cover now-- The Elongated Man preventing the Flash from capturing Capt. Cold. This ought to be another beautiful Infantino cover.

Oh, by the way, the second issue of STRANGE SPORTS STORIES (or SPORTS STORIES OF SPACE, which ever they call it) will carry a short autobiography of Carmine Infantino, accompanied by a portrait.

Have you noticed that biographies of DC artists and writers have appeared in recent issues of MY GREATEST ADVENTURES, CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, HOUSE OF SECRETS, TOMAHAWK, and that artists and writers are now often mentioned in Mort Weisinger's letter departments? This is quite a change (for the better) from what it was just a short while ago when in answer to my inquiries they would simply reply that all DC stories were created by staff artists and writers.

Here's a interesting item from the stockmarket: National Periodicals expects earnings equal to about one dollar a share in fiscal 1962, according to Jacob S. Liebowitz, president. Revenues are estimated at $38, 500, 000. 00. In the year ended Sept. 30, 1961, the company had a net of $849, 767. 00 or 66¢ a share on revenues of $35, 971, 624. 00. For the first six months ended March 31, National earned the equivalent of 38¢ a share against 25¢ a share a year earlier. Mr. Liebowitz says that first half results usually reflect 40% of the annual profit.

And this news from Nelson Bridwell of Oklahoma City--

Bill Gaines and Al Feldstein of MAD are the plaintiffs in a law-suit here, and had to come here to give depositions. They say the scuttlebutt is: Dell will drop its comic line. It seems Western Printing Co. had the contracts for most of Dell's best sellers-- Disney, Hanna-Barberra, Warner Bros., etc. When Western pulled out and teamed with Golden Press to start the new Gold Key Line, it left Dell in something of a spot. However, Dell seems to be trying to hang on, even by resorting to the publication of horror comics, such as TALES FROM THE TOMB, GHOST STORIES, THE MUMMY, POE'S TALES OF TERROR.

Speaking of Gold Key, their first TWILIGHT ZONE (numbered one, al-though there have been four issued by Dell) has two stories by Reed (Blackhawk) Crandall. George Evans did the other story. (Who did Gold Key's new hero, Dr. Solar?)

Bill and Al said that the only comics they printed that never lost money were the horror and suspense titles. The s-f mags never made money. After the collapse of horror comics in 1954, EC published a new line of comics for about a year. One, PSYCHOANALYSIS, which ran four issues, was perhaps one of the most intelligent comics of all time. Al thinks it was ten years ahead of its time, and points to the upcoming ELEVENTH HOUR TV series as evidence. TV and comics are al-ready catching up with the excellent human-interest medical stories which appeared at the same time in another short-

lived EC comic, MD.

Here's a plug for THROUGH TIME AND SPACE WITH FERDINAND FEGHOOT (Paradox Press). It contains 46 stories which have appeared in FANTASY & SCIENCE-FICTION, plus four others. One is an idea of mine; hence I am mentioned in the dedication. It is recommended for all fans of outrageous punning.

By the way, it looks like the JLA took a cue from Roy Thomas' Bestest League of America (ALTER-EGO #3) in making Batman the "villain" in "Menace of the 'Atom' Bomb."

Comically, Nelson Bridwell

If you have news of interest to comics fans, send it to: Jerry Bails, 17645 Gaylord, Detroit 40, Michigan.

TRADE LIST: Most of these items I will trade only for items on my want list; however, I will entertain all reasonable offers, although I will be able to answer only those that interest me.
KEY: M (mint); V (very good); G (good); F (fair); P (poor); nc (no cover)

Action 21(G), 37(G), 44(V), 53(V);
Adventure 43(F), 49(P), 53(P), 54(G), 83(P);
All-American 40(G), 41(F), 43(G), 44(F), 81(F), 82(F), 83(F), 84(G), 101(V), 102(M);
All-Flash 30(M), 31(V);
Comic Cavalcade 10(G);
Detective 64(P);
Flash 28(F), 61(G);
Green Lantern 17(P), 20(V), 21(P,nc), 22(V), 23(G);
Leading 6(V);
More Fun 56(G), 57(V), 58(V), 60(F), 62(V), 65(V);
Sensation 16(V), 31(G), 33(G), 52(V), 53(M), 54(M), 55(V), 57(V), 58(G), 60(M), 64(V), 81(V), 82(M), 84(M), 106(G);
Star Spangled 58(M), 61(V), 62(M), 64(M), 66(M), 68(M), 79(M), 80(M);
Wonder Woman 22(V), 24(F), 25(M), 26(M), 27(G), 29(M), 31(V), 32(G), 33(G), 43(M), 44(M), 46(M), 47(G), 49(M), 51(V), 52(M).
RARE FIRST ISSUES: For trade only for my special wants.
Airfighters (G, 1941), Capt. Fearless (M, 1941), Dollman (M, 1941), U.S. Jones (M, 1941), Uncle Sam (M, 1941), Victory (M, 1941), Yankee (G, 1941)
Non-DCs FOR SALE. First reasonable offer takes the item.
Airboy 98(G), Big Shot 62(M), Bulletman 14(M), Capt. America 9(G), Crack 58(P, 3/4c), Fighting American 3(G), Top Notch 29(V), Whiz 77(F), Young Allies 5(V), 8(V), Young Men 28(G).

WANT LIST: I will pay handsomely or trade for any of these items. Please state the condition of all comics you offer for trade.

Action 1, 23, 33, 42, 43, 52; Adventure 40-54, 77-83; All-American 29, 34-39, 83-100; All-Flash 4-6, 29; Batman 1; Comic Cavalcade 1-29; Detective 27, 40, 60, 64; Flash 1-36, 64-66, 86-104; Green Lantern 27-38; Leading 2, 4-10; More Fun 52-72; Sensation 14-24; Star Spangled 3-5, 11-27; Superman 1; World's Fair 1939; Wonder Woman 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16; World's Finest 1-7; All-Winners 19-22; Prize 24; Marvel Mystery 1-10; All-Star 25-27

Jerry G. Bails, 17645 Gaylord, Detroit 40, Michigan.

THE PERSONAL PLUGS OF YOUR EDITOR, J.G. BAILS

FREE advertising space in THE COMIC READER, ORIGINAL art by Mike Sekowsky (JLA), or photographs of the covers of rare first issues can be yours for the LOAN of any of the following first issues: (Please write to confirm before sending comics.)

A-1, Ace, All Aces, All-American, All New, All Top, All Winners (1941), Amazing Man, Amazing Mystery, America's Greatest, Batman, Big Shot, Black Cat, Blackhawk, Blue Beetle, Bouncer, Boy, Capt. Aero, Capt. Battle, Capt. Courageous, Capt. Marvel, Capt. Midnight, Catman, Champ, Clue, Cyclone, Daredevil, Detective, Detective Eye, Doc Savage, Face, Four Most, Frankstein, Fun, Gift, Green Mask, Headline, Holiday, Human Torch, Joe Jinks, Jumbo, Jungle, Kid Eternity, King, Laugh, Masked Marvel, Master, Military, Mystery, Miss Fury, National, Nickel, Namora, Our Flag, Popular, Punch, Ranger of Freedom, Red Dragon, Red Raven, Red Ryder, Rex Dexter of Mars, Sheena, Skyman, Slam Bang, Sparkey Watts, Spy Smasher, Super-Mystery, Super Spy, Superworld, Samson, Target, Tip Top, Whiz, Wonder, Wonderworld, Wow, Wings, Xmas.

Incidentally, I have available now data sheets indexing the first 60 issues photographed in this project. I'm asking 15¢ for them to help offset the costs of this project. Want a copy?

Now in print -- The Revised Edition of The Authoritative Index to ALL-STAR COMICS (25¢) featuring a cover illustration of all The Justice Society members and guests, a complete listing of all the stories, artists, writers, and heroes in all 57 issues, plus many other interesting facts about this popular favorite of the 1940s.

ALTER-EGO #4 is on its way to the lithographers -- 34 big pages just bursting with illustrations and top-flight articles. Here are just two of the many features you won't want to miss: A personal letter from Paul Reinman telling about his experiences in the comics field; A review of two Big Little Books published in the mid-30s featuring Maximo, The Superman before the time of SUPERMAN. If you haven't ordered your copy, do so now or your might miss out. Send 50¢ (or 60¢ if you want a collector's copy).

Let's see--what else can I sell? How about a used bull-dog clip originally used to display ALL-STAR #13 on the magazine stands? No, I've got just the thing. I'll use this space to plug THE LITCHVILLE BULLETIN, a weekly newspaper edited and published by Leonard H. Berg, Litchville, North Dakota. This paper carries a complete week's supply of daily Tarzan and Lone Ranger strips, or so I'm told by John McGeehan of THE HOUSE OF INFO. Subscription rates are: $1.35 for six months; $2.50 for a year; outside of N. Dakota it's $3.00 a year, $3.50 a year to Canada, $4.00 to foreign countries. This paper sounds like a good idea, especially for those fans stuck in a hick town with only the Kansas City Star to read.

In case you've missed it, my new address is:
J. G. Bails, 17645 Gaylord, Detroit 40, Michigan.

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW!

In late 1960, I conceived the idea of publishing a newsletter for comics fans. My contacts in the comic-book industry gave me privileged information about forth-coming stories still "On the Drawing Board", and I was sure that this news would be of great interest to fans everywhere. I hoped to bring fans together and perhaps to locate a few old fans who remembered and enjoyed the Justice Society of America, my boyhood favorite. (I succeeded beyond my fondest hopes.) Through my friend, Gardner Fox, the creator of the early JSA adventures, I had met (through the mails) Roy Thomas, another enthusiastic JSA fan, and together we expanded the idea for my newsletter until it included articles and features on the favorites of the 1940s, a revival of the Spectre, and Roy's comic-strip parody of the Justice League of America (a strip which, by the way, Roy and I had, quite independently, been working for since the demise of the JSA).

In February of 1961, a business trip to New York gave me an opportunity to visit with my friends Gardner Fox and Julie Schwartz in the offices of National Comics. These talented men took time from their busy schedules to show this old fan a wonderful day, and I went away with many ideas for my new fanzine, which I had now decided to call ALTER-EGO, since it was to be devoted to the heroes of the comics and other media who wore costumes to hide their real identities.

Julie had shown me copies of an excellent science-fiction fanzine, Dick Lupoff's XERO, which was running a series on the old comics, and from which I was happy to learn that there was a segment of science-fiction fandom that was devoted to the old comic-book heroes. Through XERO and the new letter pages in the comics, I discovered hundreds of active collectors and fans like myself, and I was "off".

After the first issue of ALTER-EGO, so many fans, collectors, and dealers wanted to use the pages of AE to contact one another that I had to create a separate fanzine, devoted primarily to fan advertising. Hence, was born THE COMICOLLECTOR.

Now, it has always been my goal to make each issue of ALTER-EGO better than the last, but this sort of thing can quickly grow beyond the means of the amateur with only a few leisure hours to spare, and this is what has happened to me. So, ALTER-EGO #4, which I hope will be my finest (despite the fact that it won't carry Roy's Marvel Family article--he's been too busy to write it), will be my last! Other demands upon my time make it impossible for me to continue as the publishing editor of ALTER-EGO and THE COMICOLLECTOR, but rather than let these popular fanzines die the death of most amateur efforts, I am passing the reins on to another fan (actually, three fans) whose interest, talent, and capacities offer the greatest promise that these zines will grow and grow and grow, and, who knows, maybe one day become professional magazines.

My retirement from the editorship of AE and CC does not mean that I will become inactive in fandom. I will still publish THE COMIC READER (the newsletter I originally planned), and special data sheets for collectors of the early comics. I will also find more time to write articles myself; I will be a regular contributor to the new ALTER-EGO, and an occasional contributor (upon request) to other comic fanzines. And, of course, I will continue to build my collection

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(Continued from the other side.)
of rare comics from the Golden Era of the costumed heroes, and I will remain as always a sympathetic critic of the new heroes.

Now, with these explanations out of the way, let me introduce you to the new publishing editor of ALTER-EGO and THE COMICOLLECTOR -- Ronn Foss, who plans to bring you both zines on an alternating bi-monthly schedule.

Jerry G. Bails

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In June of last year, Ed Lahmann graciously sent me something for which I will be forever indebted to him--it was the 2nd issue of ALTER-EGO. I reacted as I suppose many of you did upon laying eyes on AE; I was joyously exuberant, amazed, and profoundly pleased that such a publication existed! An entire periodical devoted to comic heroes!! A whole new world was opening to me. AE let me know that I wasn't the only individual in the world interested enough in comics to collect them. I'd been collecting seriously since 1952, but AE offered me my first real contacts with fandom. I met, via the mails, another serious advocate of the comic heroes--a virtual encyclopedia on the movie serials of old--Ron Haydock. Ron sent me copies of his own fanzines, APE, SKYBIRD, and RED CUBE. SKYBIRD #2 was to serve as my initiation as a fan artist. Ron, who had seen samples of my art, asked me to illustrate the cover. The issue featured a blast at DC's SECRET ORIGINS ANNUAL and my cover illo pictured the characters in the annual (?) standing around reading the comic itself and bitterly complaining about their so-called "origin" stories.

After this first taste of appearing in print, I waspretty sure it wouldn't be long before I myself would edit a fanzine. However, as things happen, I found my vocation interfering with my avocation. I did find time to contribute to Parley Holman's SPOTLITE, Steve Gerber and Paul Seydor's HEADLINE, and of course ALTER-EGO, but I would never be satisfied until I published my own zine. Finally, I changed jobs to give me more time and energy. I had lots of ideas I felt were pretty good. Now, I was all ready to go.

Then on June 3rd I wrote Jerry Bails of my interest in zine publishing. I mentioned some of my ideas and aspirations. He wrote back that he was looking for someone to assume publication of AE and CC. We both became enthusiastic; in the weeks to follow dozens of letters flew back and forth between us. By late June it was decided. America's leading comic fanzines (the circulations prove it) would change hands--from a dedicated, knowledgeable, proficient, and probably weathered editor, to not one, or even two, but three dedicated and enthusiastic editors! Yes, there are three of us; my wife, an aspiring writer, long time comic fan, and prospective comic artist; our partner, Richard Green, more like a brother, a truly great artist; and finally, yours truly, an avid fan and also an aspiring comic artist. We three, the triad, are ready, willing, and able to produce a better quality zine, with the unification of fans, collectors, writers, and artists, our ultimate goal.

Now, for some important details! We will continue THE COMICOLLECTOR essentially as is--a bimonthly ditto publication. Current subscriptions will be filled without interruption. New subscriptions and renewals will again be accepted at the regular rates: 5 issues for $1.oo, a sample copy for 25¢. The advertising rates will also remain the same:

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FOSS: (Continued from the preceding page.)

$1.00 per quarter-page or fraction thereof, with a special dealer's rate of $7.00 for two pages. We will also continue the Auction Block at the same rates: 10¢ per line. And finally, we'll continue the special bonus features which we have all come to enjoy. Deadline for CC-7: Sept. 10.

And now just a word about ALTER-EGO -- We will begin bimonthly publication with issue #5, which is already in the works and which will follow on the heels of Jerry's last issue (#4). It will be a high quality, offset publication with exciting new features, including many pages in comic format introducing new and original heroes. We are accepting orders now for issue #5 and subsequent issues at 50¢ per issue. Collectors' copies are 10¢ per issue extra. We encourage you to order now.

So, there it is, and here we are, anxious to do our best for you, the comic fan. We don't expect to get your support on a silver platter; we intend to earn it as Jerry did, through the best art, and the most accurate reviewing, and the finest writing we can produce. You can help us; let us hear from you; we will carefully consider your wishes, opinions, and suggestions.

It goes without saying, we couldn't hope to continue without Jerry--he'll be pitching all the way--contributing, suggesting, and shaking his head if we start "off base."

So, let's get together. We are waiting to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Ronn Foss
Route 1, Box 161,
Suisun (Rockville)
California

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Ross Kight, 825 Eastwood Ave., Chicago 40, Ill.

I offer MONEY, MONEY, MONEY. Are you interested?
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BONUS on deals of $15.00 or more: 1 page of original JLA art (my choice).
Write first to confirm deal. MINT copies only, pleeeeze.

First TALES TO ASTONISH to feature Henry Pym (later to be known as Antman), ACTION 254, 257, 260; Detective 225-232, 234, 236- 238, 240, 241, 243, 244, 255-258, 260-264, 266, 268, 271, 272; MYSTERY IN SPACE 53, 55, 56, 58, 59; SHOWCASE ($1.00), 8 ($1.00), 17 ($.75), 18($.75); WONDER WOMAN 97, 100-102; World's Finest 71-83, 85-87, 90-94.

If you have these issues but will only consider trading them, let me know what you want; I may have it. Jerry Bails

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THE COMICOLLECTOR will be ready any day; get your orders on the way!

LAST MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENTS: AUGUST 29, 1962
(This issue was delayed because Mike was away on vacation, but all the news is still fresh; in fact, here's some late word...)

Coming in November, the first issue of Boaon Eglegng Jcdqlzm. (Ask Mike for a code chart if you don't already have one.)

Alas, but it's true. Many of the top comic artists have moved over into the field of the humor magazines. If you have followed them or would like to, then you should read the humor fanzines, which are among the best amateur zines published. Three in particular that I like and recommend to you are: SMUDGE (25¢, Joe Pilati, 111 South Highland Ave., Pearl River, N. Y.); WILD (20¢, Don Dohler, 1221 Overbrook Rd., Baltimore 12, Md.); and JACK HIGH (20¢, Phil Roberts, R. R. #1, 283 Hoopinggarner Rd., Bronson, Mich.). A lot of sweaty talent goes into each of these zines.

Friends,

First of all, I'd like to thank all the amateur artists who took the time to send me a sample of their artwork as I requested in CR-11, and those of you who like to draw and have not yet sent me some of your art, you are invited to.

Here is a list of the comic packets left: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, M, N, P, Q, R, S, T, V, W, Z, X-1, X-2, Z-1, Z-2, Z-3 -- All packets are $1.00 each. For a complete list of the packets' contents, send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope, specifying that you want the "Comic Packets List"!

Here are some of my special wants:
Showcase 4, 6, 8, 13, 14; Flash 106, 108; Challengers of the Unknown 1, 6; Fly 17; Mystery in Space 66; Batman 1-21, 24, 25, 27-30, 32, 33, 35-41, 43-68, 71, 73-79, 81, 82, 83, 87-89, 91(mint), 93, 96, 97, 99, 102, 108, 110, 111, 112.

Available for trade: (All in good condition)
Exciting 33 (Black Terror), Startling 35 (Fighting Yank), Sensation 62 (Wildcat, Mr. Terrific, Wonder Woman), Capt. Marvel Jr. 102, Whiz 123 (Capt. Marvel), Plastic Man 61, Detective 177, 198.

For those of you who have written me since the last COMIC READER and have not received an answer yet, please have patience, I've just arrived home from a 3-week vacation up North. Keep writing!

MIKE TUOHEY, 16857 SUNDERLAND, DETROIT 19, MICHIGAN

Faneds, do I have a copy of your latest creation? I'm planning to do a review column, and it would be a shame if your zine were missed. (Or maybe, you'd just as soon I miss your zine if you've been lifting material without acknowledgments.)

In this last bit of space that's left, let me say that I am very interested in obtaining original art for Adam Strange, Superman, Green Lantern, Atom, etc. I have many excellent panels from the JLA-Amazo story for trade. Also I have sharp, glossy photographs of the covers of over 100 first issues of comics published before 1948 that are available for trade.

JERRY G. BAILS, 17645 GAYLORD, DETROIT 40, MICH.